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1742  
Docket No.: 21029-00229-US  
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Francois Mignard et al.

Application No.: 10/058,272

Art Unit: 1742

Filed: January 30, 2002

Examiner: D. J. Jenkins

For: IMPROVEMENTS TO HEATING  
PROCESS OF STEEL STRIPS IN  
VERTICAL FURNACES

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated September 24, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.